

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (Previously presented): A computer system for enabling a voice browser to render an audio segment derived from an audio source, the voice browser for receiving a document including contextual information and an associated text string to be rendered as audio, the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a database, referencing a plurality of audio segments, each audio segment of the plurality associated with an audio segment identifier that uniquely identifies that audio segment;

a prompt mapping configuration comprising a plurality of prompt classes, a plurality of occurrences of at least one test string, and a one-to-one association between each of the occurrences and a corresponding audio segment identifier, the prompt mapping configuration adapting the processor to specify a first text string having occurrences in multiple prompt classes; and

a prompt audio object, which, in response to receiving the document, adapts the processor to use the contextual information to determine a prompt class, match a text string from the document received by the voice browser to one of the plurality of occurrences of the at least one text string by searching only within the prompt class, wherein the match, through the association of text string occurrences to audio segment identifiers, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence, and cause rendering of an audio segment, referenced in the database, that is identified by the audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method for enabling a voice browser computer system to render an audio segment derived from an audio source, the voice browser computer system including a processor, the method comprising:

receiving a document including contextual information and an associated text string to be rendered as audio;

using the contextual information to cause the processor to identify a prompt class of audio segments from a plurality of prompt classes, each of the prompt classes associating an audio segment identifier unique across the prompt classes with a reference text string unique within the class;

identifying an audio segment identifier by causing the processor to search only within the identified prompt class for a reference text string matching the text string from the document received by the voice browser, wherein the match, through the association of reference text strings to audio segment identifiers, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched reference text string, and wherein an audio segment, referenced in a database, is obtained for rendering based on the identified audio segment identifier; and

causing the processor to render the audio segment as audio.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The method of claim 35, further comprising selecting an advertisement to render for the voice browser based on the contextual information.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the association of audio segment identifiers with reference text strings is specified in a markup language document.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, enable a voice browser to render an audio segment derived from an audio source, the voice browser for receiving a document including contextual information and an associated text string to be rendered as audio, the instructions for:

using the contextual information to identify a prompt class from a plurality of prompt classes, each of the prompt classes including an association of an audio segment identifier unique across the prompt classes with a reference text string unique within the prompt class;

identifying an audio segment identifier by searching only with the identified prompt class for a reference text string matching the text string from the document received by the voice browser, wherein the match, through the association of reference text strings to audio segment identifiers, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched reference text string, the identified audio segment identifier for selecting an associated audio segment, referenced in a database, for rendering by the voice browser.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for selecting an advertisement to render for the voice browser based on the contextual information.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 38, wherein the association of audio segment identifiers with reference text strings is specified in a markup language document.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, enable a voice browser to render an audio segment derived from an audio source, the voice browser for receiving a document including contextual information and an associated text string to be rendered as audio, the instructions for:

providing a markup language document comprising at least two context indicating elements, which each defines a browser context; wherein the markup language document includes a reference text string that is common to at least two browser contexts of the markup language document, and wherein each such reference text string within a different browser context is associated with a different audio segment identifier; and

searching only within reference text string/audio segment identifier mappings associated with a current browser context for a match between the text string from the document received by the voice browser and the reference text string within the markup language document, wherein the match, through the reference text string/audio segment identifier mappings, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched reference text string, the identified audio segment identifier for selecting an associated audio segment, referenced in a database, for rendering by the voice browser.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): A system for enabling a voice browser to render an audio segment derived from an audio source, the voice browser for receiving a document including contextual information and an associated text string to be rendered as audio, the system comprising:

- a computer memory for storing instructions;

- a database referencing a plurality of audio segments, each audio segment of the plurality associated with an audio segment identifier that uniquely identifies that audio segment; and

- a processor for executing the instructions, the instructions for:

- using the contextual information to identify a prompt class of audio segments from a plurality of prompt classes, each of the prompt classes associating one of the audio segment identifiers unique across the prompt classes with a reference text string unique within the class; and

- identifying one of the audio segment identifiers by searching only within the identified prompt class for a reference text string matching the text string from the document received by the voice browser, wherein the match, through the association of reference text strings to audio segment identifiers, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched reference text string, and wherein an audio segment, referenced in the database, is obtained for rendering based on the identified audio segment identifier.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the document is a markup language document.